

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for informing remote clients as to the presence status of a device, the method comprising:

recording a presence status of a first device to create an observed presence profile;

5 comparing the observed presence profile with one or more model presence profiles to compute a closest matching model presence profile; and

transmitting information representing the closest matching model presence profile to one ore more devices.

2. The method of claim 1, the method comprising:

dividing a block of time into one or more discrete time periods;

recording the first device's presence status over the time period; and

10 creating an observed presence profile from the first device's recorded presence status.

3. The method of claim 1 comprising comparing the observed presence profile with the model presence profiles when requested by the one or more devices.

4. The method of claim 1 comprising comparing the observed presence profile with the model presence profiles according to a schedule.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting is executed when requested by the one or more devices.

20 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting is executed according to a schedule.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting information comprises transmitting a status code representing the closest matching model presence profile.

8. The method of claim 1 comprising applying a pattern detection algorithm to compare the observed presence profile with one or more model profiles to compute the closest matching model presence profile.

5 9. The method of claim 8 comprising applying a Fast Fourier Transformation to compare the observed presence profile with one or more model profiles to compute the closest matching model presence profile.

10. Computer readable media comprising program code, the program code instructing a programmable computer to execute a method for informing remote clients as to the presence status of a device, the method comprising:

recording a presence status of a first device to create an observed presence profile;  
comparing the observed presence profile with one or more model presence  
profiles to compute the closest matching model presence profile; and  
transmitting information representing the closest matching model presence profile  
to one or more devices.

11. The program code claim 10 instructing a programmable computer to execute  
a method for informing remote clients as to the presence status of a device, the method  
comprising:

dividing a block of time into one or more discrete time periods;  
recording the first device's presence status over the time period; and  
20 creating an observed presence profile from the first device's recorded presence  
status.

12. The program code of claim 10 instructing a programmable computer to  
execute a method for informing remote clients as to the presence status of a device, the method

comprising comparing the observed presence profile with the model presence profile when requested by the one or more devices.

13. The program code of claim 10 instructing a programmable computer to execute a method for informing remote clients as to the presence status of a device, the method comprising comparing the observed presence profile with the model presence profiles according to a schedule.

14. The program code of claim 10 instructing a programmable computer to execute a method for informing remote clients as to the presence status of a device, wherein the step of transmitting is executed when requested by the one or more devices.

15. The program code of claim 10 instructing a programmable computer to execute a method for informing remote clients as to the presence status of a device, wherein the step of transmitting is executed according to a schedule.

16. The method of claim 10 wherein the step of transmitting information comprises transmitting a status code representing the closest matching model presence profile.

17. The program code of claim 10 instructing a programmable computer to execute a method for informing remote clients as to the presence status of a device, the method comprising applying a pattern detection algorithm to compare the observed presence profile with one or more model profiles to compute the closest matching model presence profile.

18. The program code of claim 17 instructing a programmable computer to execute a method for informing remote clients as to the presence status of a device, the method comprising applying a Fast Fourier Transformation to compare the observed presence profile with one or more model profiles to compute the closest matching model presence profile.